

MEDIA RELEASE: SCI-FI Science Camps Wins Innovation Award

Saskatoon SK, September 28th 2007: **SCI-FI** Science Camps, based out of the University of Saskatchewan has received the 2007 Actua Award for Leadership and Innovation. **SCI-FI** is well known for its dynamic and interactive science, engineering and technology themed programming for youth. This award recognizes **SCI-FI** for its dedication to making its programming accessible to underserved and underrepresented youth in Saskatoon and throughout the province of Saskatchewan. It further recognizes **SCI-FI** as a key contributor to Actua's national success. Actua is a national charity with 29 member organizations that cumulatively engage and inspire over 225,000 youth annually in over 400 communities nationwide.

Some highlights of SCI-FI's accomplishments include the establishment of a new inner-city camp program for at-risk and marginalized Aboriginal youth in Prince Albert and Saskatoon. SCI-FI further expanded its Aboriginal outreach to include a travelling workshop program reaching over 7,400 Aboriginal youth across Saskatchewan, and including an exciting new workshop initiative to fly-in communities in the Athabasca area.

As part of a national initiative to engage girls in science and technology, SCI-FI also participated in the Canadian Women's Foundation girls' club initiative, providing significant support for the development of best practices for the delivery of girls clubs. SCI-FI's girls club, Girls Exploring Science, engages girls in extra-curricular science themed activities in an all-girls environment. Young women professionals in science, engineering and technology fields act as mentors at club sessions, interacting with the girls and inspiring them to imagine positive futures for themselves.

While all members contribute to the delivery of programming that builds self confidence among a new generation of innovators, SCI-FI has gone above and beyond by investing heavily in programming that includes disadvantaged youth, at-risk youth, and youth who are otherwise underserved in science and technology fields. In total, SCI-FI reached over 14,000 youth throughout Saskatchewan in 2007.

Actua is Canada's leading science, engineering and technology youth outreach network. Over 2.5 million young Canadians have been inspired through their participation in Actua's positive, hands-on educational workshops, camps and community outreach initiatives. Each year, Actua's growing network of member organizations reach over 225,000 young Canadians in over 400 communities nationwide. Actua's major funders include: GE Canada, NSERC, Synapse – CIHR Youth Connection, Suncor Energy Foundation, Shell Canada, and Honda Canada Foundation. For more information about Actua visit www.actua.ca.

- 30 -

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